

The following are Framing Questions offered by the BCC for the anticipated DOE Presentations/Discussions to the BCC on the two following topics:

TOPIC #1: Advanced DOE Presentation on the planned “Public Meeting on FY2023 DOE Budget.”

Framing Questions:

- 1) When is this year’s Hanford DOE FY2023 planned budget submittal to DOE-EM HQ going to be made by RL/ORP?
- 2) When does DOE RL/ORP anticipate that DOE-EM will submit its FY2023 budget to the President’s Office of Management and Budgets?
- 3) While DOE cannot reveal the specific FY2023 compliant or target budget levels at this time, what is the % of target budget/compliant budget for FY2023 Hanford work?
- 4) Did DOE use the HAB’s recent Advice on FY2023 Cleanup Priorities in developing the submittal to HQ? If so, how was it used?
- 5) If ultimately authorized and appropriated, will the Hanford FY2023 budget submittal support the HAB “critical” priority activities plus those additional activities that DOE feels must be accomplished in that year?
- 6) Given that a number of planned FY20 and FY21 cleanup activities have been delayed due to COVID (e.g. 324, DFLAW, others), how is this being addressed in the submittal of the FY2023 budget, and what originally planned cleanup activities are expected to be delayed that were previously planned for FY23?
- 7) DOE has stated to the HAB several times that the Hanford site culture has to change (one example mentioned was a required shift to an “operations” focus). Does the DOE RL/ORP FY2023 budget submitted to DOE-EM reflect changes to the Hanford site culture?
- 8) The President’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Discretionary Funding Request includes \$46.1 billion for the Department of Energy (DOE), a 10.2 percent increase from the Department’s FY 2021 enacted level. The President’s funding request identifies eight overarching goals for DOE’s budget. However, none of those overarching goals appear to be related to environmental cleanup of the type performed at Hanford. Does DOE RL/ORP believe that the reduced Hanford budget in the President’s FY2022 budget request (issued in May 2021) reflects this new focus of the Administration’s environmental cleanup efforts? If so, what would that portend for the DOE FY2023 and beyond environmental cleanup budget?
- 9) The President’s FY22 Budget request to Congress shows a significant reduction in the FY21 budget for ORP/WTP (~\$104M). How will this impact the work planned for FY2022 and FY2023 for WTP?
- 10) Hanford’s Tank Waste Mission is the largest environmental liability within DOE/our Government, but how does DOE acknowledge and address other necessary cleanup missions? For example, we have a state of the art, successful and under-utilized, Pump and Treat GW system -- will optimization/expansion be pursued?
- 11) There seems to be little DOE sense of urgency over the most recent tank leak discovery. What actions are being taken? Also, why aren’t efforts to re-initiate the Test Bed Initiative (TBI), and to initiate design/permitting of additional tank storage capacity being undertaken as part of the DOE budgeting process?

TOPIC #2: Conduct a structured DOE/BCC discussion on “Acceptable budget information/timing of that information release that can be shared by DOE to the HAB within DOE restrictions.”

Suggested Framing Questions:

- 1) The HAB understands that DOE has constraints from HQ that must be followed on release of budget-related data. Please specifically define what those restrictions are.
- 2) We understand that DOE is permitted to publicly share detailed budget information once the President submits the FY budget request to Congress. Is that correct? Note that some FY2022 detailed budget information is now publicly available as of May 30, 2021.
- 3) What detailed budget information can be provided to the public once the President’s DOE budget request is provided to Congress (e.g., the Integrated Priority List (IPL), the Activity Building Blocks (ABB), the target- and compliant-level budget values, etc.)?
- 4) Can DOE provide a history of FY compliant budgets submitted over the last 10 years for historical reference?
- 5) BCC will discuss why receiving detailed budget information and briefings from DOE as soon as possible after the President’s budget request is provided to Congress will be beneficial:
 - a. It will help inform BCC in planned activities for the following year that DOE is supporting, and therefore will impact the efforts by the HAB/BCC in preparing the next Cleanup Priorities Advice.
 - b. It will be helpful for the HAB/BCC to compare with the most recent version of the DOE 5-yr plan and to offer comments to the DOE for the next 5-yr plan revision.
- 6) The objective of this topic is to conduct discussions between DOE and the HAB/BCC and to strive to reach agreement on what specific budget info will be shared and when and how it can be done.

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